

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A photosensor system performs a sensitivity-
adjusting reading operation with respect to a subject
image, while simultaneously changing the image reading
5 sensitivity stepwise for each of rows of a photosensor
array or for specific rows thereof. The dynamic ranges
of the lightness data on the read subject image are
checked to see how they are distributed in relation to
the image reading sensitivities. On the basis of this
10 distribution, an image reading sensitivity that
contributes to an optimal image reading state is
extracted as an optimal image reading sensitivity.